# Online Glossary

A GLOSSARY OF COMMON WEB TERMS

consumer brief

Adware– Any software application which displays advertising banners while the program is running. Adware has been criticized because it usually includes code that tracks a user's personal information and passes it on to third parties, without the user's authorization or knowledge.

CD-ROM– Compact Disk-Read Only Memory; an optical disk from which information may be read but not written.
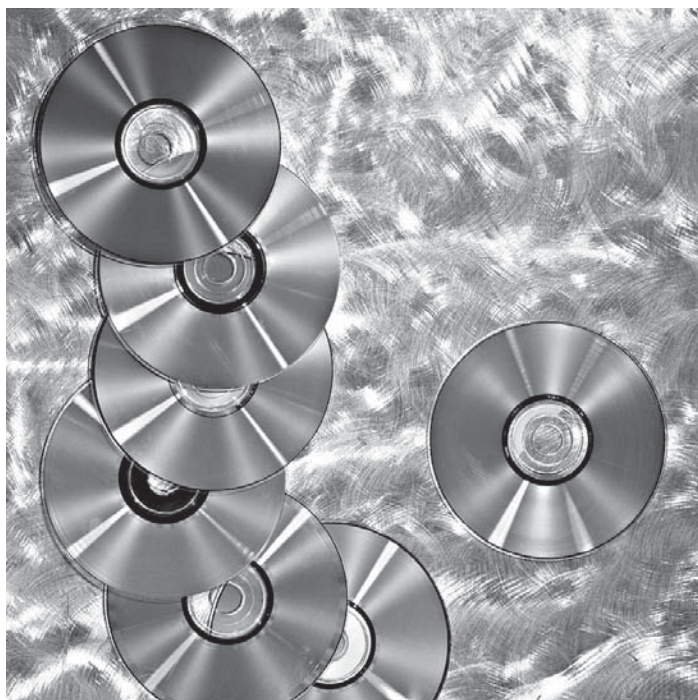
Cookie– A text block of information deposited on your hard drive by certain Web sites. When you revisit the site, that cookie will act as an identifier to let the Web site know that you are back. Cookies may be used to tell Web-site businesses and their advertisers about your preferences, such as the type of music you order online.

Cyberspace– A term coined by William Gibson in his novel "Neuromancer" to refer to a near-future computer network where users mentally travel through matrices of data. The term is now used to describe the Internet and the other computer networks.

Download– To transfer to your computer a copy of a file that resides on another computer.

Firewall– This term refers to security measures designed to protect a networked system from unauthorized or unwelcome access.

HTML– An acronym for HyperText Markup Language. HTML is the language used to tag various parts of a Web document so browsing software will know how to display that document's links, text, graphics and attached media.

HTTP– The abbreviation for Hypertext Transfer Protocol. HTTP is used to link and transfer hypertext documents.

Phishing– The most common form of phishing is e-mail pretending to be from a legitimate retailer, bank or government organization. The sender asks you to confirm your personal information (Social Security numbers, financial account information, PIN numbers, mother's maiden name, etc.) and then uses your information fradulently.

Pharming– Similar in nature to phishing, pharming seeks to obtain personal and private (usually financial) information. A malicious program is secretly implanted in your computer and it then hijacks your Web browser. When you type in the name of a legitimate Web site, you are taken to a fake copy of the site without realizing it. Any personal information you supply to the fake site can be stolen and used fraudulently.
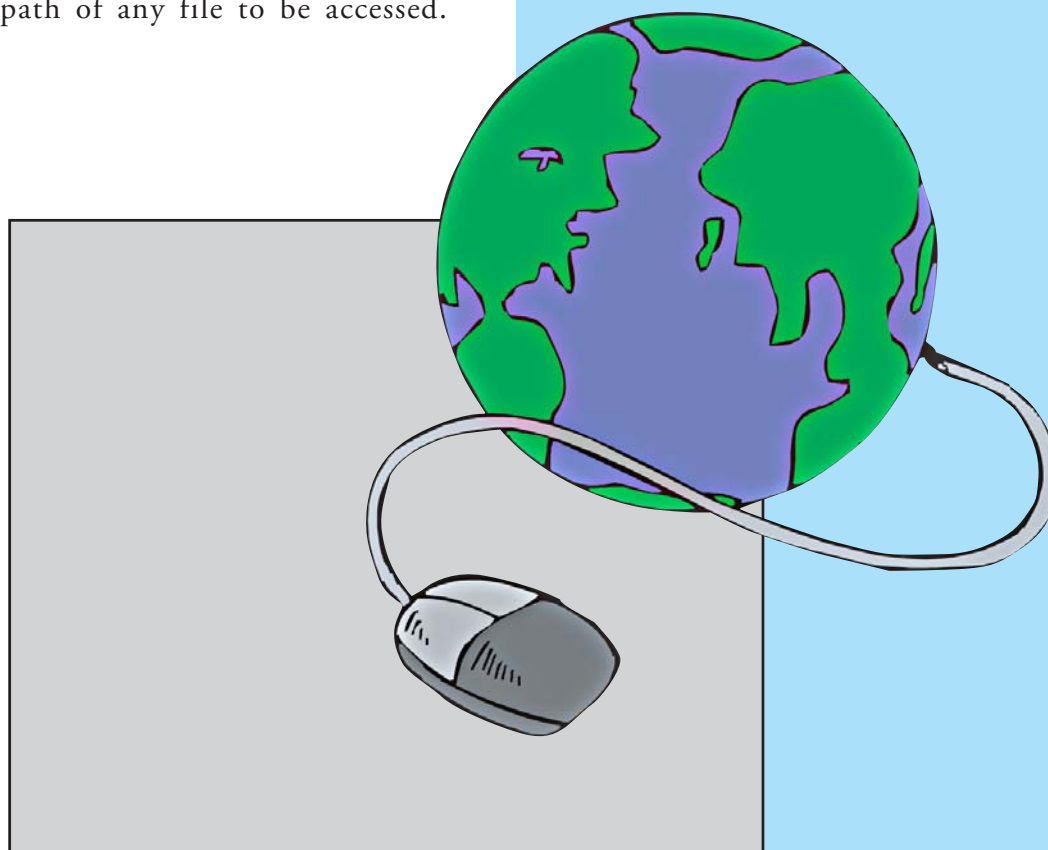
Spam— Unsolicited commercial e-mail.

Spyware— Software installed on your computer, without your consent, to monitor and control your computer use. It may be used to send you pop-up ads, redirect your computer to Web sites, monitor your Internet surfing or record your keystrokes, which in turn could lead to identity theft.

Virus— A software program which is capable of reproducing itself and is usually capable of causing great harm to files or other programs in the same computer.

Web Page— An HTML document that is accessible on the Web.

Worm— An independent program that replicates from machine to machine across network connections, often clogging networks and information systems as it spreads.

URL— This is the abbreviation for Uniform Resource Locator, the addressing system used in the World Wide Web and other Internet resources. The URL contains information about the method of access, the server to be accessed and the path of any file to be accessed.

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